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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Steering Committee  
James Madison National Council Fund

We have audited the James Madison National Council Fund (JMNC Fund) for the fiscal year 2000.

In our opinion:

- The financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles;

We found:

- No material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting; and
- No reportable noncompliance with selected provisions of laws and regulations tested.

Each of these conclusions is described in more detail below. This report also discusses the scope of our work.

### **Opinion On Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the JMNC Fund as of September 30, 2000, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the JMNC Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the JMNC Fund as of September 30, 2000, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information contained in Schedules A and B is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the JMNC Fund's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

### **Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the JMNC Fund's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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This report is intended solely for the information and use of the JMNC Steering Committee, management and Congress and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Clifton Sunderson L.L.C.*

Calverton, Maryland  
January 12, 2001